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The University of Montana

NEWS RELEASE

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Jan. 27, 1995

ITALIAN OPERA IS TOPIC OF UM PRESIDENT'S LECTURE

MISSOULA--

Clifford "Kip" Cranna, music educator and musical administrator for the San Francisco Opera, will sing the praises of Italian opera at a free public lecture Wednesday, Feb. 8, at The University of Montana.

"A Song of Love and Life: The Glories of Italian Opera," will be presented at 8 p.m. in the Music Recital Hall as the sixth program in the 1994-95 President's Lecture Series.

Cranna's role for the San Francisco Opera includes translating Italian operas into English so audiences can follow what is occurring on stage. Such translations, known as supertitles, will be a focus of his talk.

Cranna will be joined by UM Assistant Music Professor Anne Basinski and student Tomoko Makuuchi, who will sing to illustrate parts of his lecture. Missoula pianist Steven Burgess will provide accompaniment.

"We're sort of the demonstration part of the lecture," said Basinski, who teaches voice and diction at the music school and drama department. "He'll talk, then we'll sing to demonstrate."

Basinski said Cranna will discuss the history and structure of Italian operas and set up the music she and Makuuchi will sing. "He wants to demystify opera a little bit," she said.

Cranna began his career on the administrative staff of the San Francisco Opera in 1979, and has since lectured extensively on opera and music appreciation. He also has hosted San Francisco

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Opera radio broadcasts and panel discussions for the San Francisco Opera Guild.

Since 1978, he has been associated with the Carmel Bach Festival and now serves as its education and program adviser. Cranna has conducted a number of choral groups in the Bay area and has been active as a director of church music programs. He has served as a grant-award panelist for the Santa Clara County Arts Council and as a trustee of "Chanticleer," a professional vocal ensemble.

Cranna earned a bachelor's degree in music from the University of North Dakota and a doctorate in musicology from Stanford University, where he specialized in Renaissance and Baroque music history and theory.

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Contact: Clifford "Kip" Cranna, (415) 861-4008, or Anne Basinski, (406) 243-5192.

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Cranna.rl